

MISS MARIE CAHILL WINS FAVOR; "FOLLIES" BELOW 1907 BRAND

"The Boys and Betty" Above
Standard of Musical
Comedy.
Humor Bears Stamp of
Genuine Laughter—Free
From Absurdity.

Capable Cast Furnishes a Series
of Impersonations of
Genuine Merit.

With keen disappointment Washington saw Miss Mary Manning register a failure in "A House of Cards," seen here earlier this season. With genuine regret it learned that a second venture, "Step by Step," could not even toddle. It is, therefore, a pleasure to record that "The Truants," presented for the first time in America at the Belasco last evening, is an offering distinctly worthy of Miss Manning's efforts.

"The Truants" defies classification. It is not down as a comedy of English society life, but hardly fits the description. Polonious knew of "Tragedy, comedy, history, pastoral-comical, historical-pastoral" and modern ingenuity has evolved musical drama and comic melodrama. This play might best be described as comedy-drama.

The author, Wilford T. Coleby, aims to drive home a timely and vital truth. The play is heralded as a plea for the strict observance of the marriage ceremony. It is more. In a day when the stage is employed to exploit strange cults and isms Mr. Coleby chooses to hearken unto what he believes a growing disregard for elemental principles of morals and religion. His platform is a stirring and insistent exhortation for adherence to the Ten Commandments. To illustrate, he suggests the dangers that lurk behind disregard of marital convention. He teaches with a sure and true touch that a mother love is to be chosen above what the world regards as a good name and great riches. He shows that the evil well-springs of passion in a man will yield to a woman's demand—though the treatment may be heroic.

The Central Theme.

All these but hearken back to the central theme and serve to strengthen the dictum that the slightest deviation from the letter of the law of Moses is dangerous. The author's most noteworthy achievement is that he sets forth his doctrine without the slightest suspicion of preaching. The play has faults, but in the final analysis it is a drama in the truest sense and not a dramatized sermon. Not only are the situations conceived in the spirit of the drama, but they are given a setting in life that is so realistic that it is a rare reminder from the villain—in this case a triple-dyed, four-play specimen—as an example.

"You played bridge in this room last Sunday," he says. "Now if you can break the fourth commandment in the parlor, why can't I break the seventh in the kitchen?"

Again, "You women built up your position by cheating at cards. Now you want to retain the position and cheat Christianity."

This villain, Chetwood, admirably played by Robert Connors, has sowed ten years of wild oats in distant parts, but hopes to return to England and the orthodox faith of his father. He finds theories of free thinking, of the emancipation of woman, of the evolution of the sexes, abroad in the air. He finds the new philosophy with a few added amendments and is on the verge of leaving the country to be a free thinker. He finds a young girl who has imbibed similar notions.

Story of Play.

Miss Freda Savell (Miss Manning) has but recently returned from the Orient with a boy, who passes for her cousin, but who is her own son, the son of a man who tricked her into an illegitimate marriage. Miss Savell had put herself on record in a book with some broad theories concerning the marriage tie. This opened the way for suspicion when the truth about the boy became known and proved a boomerang when they were cited by the courts as authority for their proposed escape. When she tries to thwart the project Chetwood uses this information as a weapon. Miss Savell uses a pistol. Chetwood marries the girl.

Lord Strellard, who has promised to make her son his heir, learns the truth and threatens to disinherit the boy unless he is allowed to take him away. Mother love wins. She tells her story to her fiancé—the brother of Chetwood. Chetwood reminds her of her new found faith and quotes her own authority: "Whither thou lodest I will lodge. Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God."

There is so much of dramatic worth couched in well-written lines that it may be a thankless task to analyze the play as a whole is not developed with sustained dramatic interest. The author has chosen to make the play a comedy, but he has erred in introducing extraneous situations. Here is material for a serious drama; he has chosen to inject comedy. The effect is not that of a dramatic unit of a revue, or a vaudeville program of a high order.

Among the digressions was some comedy work of a high order by Miss Zella Sears, last seen here in the Fitch comedy, "Girls of the Moulin Rouge," an excellent impersonation of an English country gentleman of the present day was given by Willie Whittlesley, a former favorite in a stock company. John Tansey, who has played juvenile roles with many of the leading actors of the day, played Jack Carstairs.

Requirements for Acting.

Engaged in the thread of the story were Miss Manning, Miss Mary Manning and Robert Connors. In this play Miss Manning has wider opportunities for genuine acting than in any of her recent ventures. Her acting yesterday evening was something of a revelation to those who feared she had come to rely on her personality. She exudes all the radiant charm of her gracious self, but her impersonation calls for more than that. Fully equal in opportunities to Miss Manning's role is that assumed by Miss Mary Nash. More creative art is required in her portrayal than in any other member of the cast.

The character of Bill Chetwood is one of the impossible of the play. Even an ungodly passion proceeds along some preconceived channel. It is hard to determine whether the author had no well-defined idea to express through this character or whether he fell short in working out his purpose. Robert Connors went far toward making the part possible.

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MISS ANNABELLE WHITFORD,
In "Follies of 1908," at National Theat. ex.

Packed House Grets Opening Performance at the National—Play Is Whirlwind of Action, With
Some Good Comedy Work.

Even standing room was an unknown quantity at the National last night when the "Follies of 1908" made its first bid for favor in the Capital as the successor of the popular Follies of last season. From start to finish the production is a whirlwind of action, with a mixture of low comedy, jokes, none too fresh, music that is catchy but none too musical, with a beauty chorus of real beauties, in stunning costumes, all presented in such a whirlwind of action that despite the fact that one never knows just what one is laughing at, the laughter is there, and the applause as well.

Possibly the most serious handicap that the Follies labor under is the fact that so much of it has been seen before at vaudeville and burlesque houses. Even the society boxing match, that is as funny as it is old-fashioned, as one could ask for, was burlesqued here early in the season, and much of the music has been heard again and again. Despite this drawback, however, there is a world of fun in the Follies, and the reception given it last night was a fitting tribute to the merits of the production. The Follies of 1908, as it is called, is a whirlwind of action, with a mixture of low comedy, jokes, none too fresh, music that is catchy but none too musical, with a beauty chorus of real beauties, in stunning costumes, all presented in such a whirlwind of action that despite the fact that one never knows just what one is laughing at, the laughter is there, and the applause as well.

From a strictly musical standpoint the number being presented at Chase's this week by Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Voelker is by far the best of the season. It is entitled "Twilight in the Studio," being divided into three parts, as follows: First, the boy playing by ear; second, the self-conscious young student; and third, the mature artist. Mr. Voelker is a violin virtuoso whose playing is a delight to hear, and his rendition of his various selected numbers quickly stamps him as an artist of the highest merit. Assisting at the piano is Mrs. Voelker, and her accompaniment added much to the pleasure of the performance of her husband. Both were vociferously applauded, and the audience was completely enraptured. The number is handsomely staged.

The Heiress company, presents a highly amusing playlet, "Pals," a play about the start. The sketch involves the attempt made by a former student of the Heiress to make a violent love to her during her husband's absence. The latter suddenly appears just as the wife is attempting to escape her pursuer. A violent quarrel between the men follows, and mirrors, chandeliers, and all other breakable material in the room is completely wrecked. Assisting Mr. Davis are Beale Johnson, Edwin Carew, and William W. F. The latter furnishing much of the comedy.

Eugene and Willie Howard, as the "Heiress Messenger Boy and the Thespian," present one of the funniest comedies of the season. The sketch involves the attempt made by a former student of the Heiress to make a violent love to her during her husband's absence. The latter suddenly appears just as the wife is attempting to escape her pursuer. A violent quarrel between the men follows, and mirrors, chandeliers, and all other breakable material in the room is completely wrecked. Assisting Mr. Davis are Beale Johnson, Edwin Carew, and William W. F. The latter furnishing much of the comedy.

May and Flo Hengler again appear in a repertoire of characteristic songs and dainty dances, and their reception by the audience was a fitting tribute to the popularity with Washington audiences. This is announced as their farewell appearance in vaudeville.

The title of a sketch which gives Joseph E. Howard and Anna Laughlin ample opportunity to present some clean-cut comedy, and the introduction of some clever singing and piano playing by Mr. Howard, Miss Laughlin and a Southern band, and finally a return to the Nation. The sketch is a perfect lady in the Smart Club Athletic Club fight do some vastly clever comedy work, and the scene in the ring carries the house by storm.

One very noticeable feature of the entire production is the absence, with one or two exceptions, of anything improper from the lines. The show is clean and fun-making is without that suggestiveness so frequently seen in plays of the kind. The curtain goes up showing the Garden of Eden, then a quick shift and the New Jersey Tube is seen, a big jump, but easily made. Next the players are switched aboard the Lusitania, then to a Southern band, and finally a return to the Nation. The sketch is a perfect lady in the Smart Club Athletic Club fight do some vastly clever comedy work, and the scene in the ring carries the house by storm.

An attractive program of the Majestic last evening presented a vaudeville bill above the standard and an enjoyable line of moving pictures. Acrobatic feats and song were the features of the olio. The moving pictures presented views of travel and comic films.

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HELP WANTED—FEMALE.

ALTERATION HANDS—Thoroughly experienced on ladies' suits. Apply G. ERLI, 122 P. St. N. W.

APPRENTICE—Dressmaker; small wages while learning. 11 1/2 St. S. E.

CHAMBERMAID—Must be willing to assist with ironing. 616 E. Cap.

COLLAR STARCHER—Experienced. WEST END LAUNDRY, 123 Pa. ave.

COOK and do general housework. 225 Highland ave., Cleveland Park.

COOKS—3 women. leave city; laundress; chambermaid; nurses; cook; general housework; in city. 1635 11th.

EXPERIENCED waiter helper wanted. 1021 14th N. W.

FEMALE help on skirts and coats. NAT. LADIES' TAILORS, 1344 W. St.

GIRL—Colored; to dust furniture; must be neat and reliable; come well recommended. Apply JACKSON BROS., 915 7th N. W.

GIRL for general housework. Apply 23 S. St. N. W.

GIRL to do general housework. 225 E. Cap.

GIRL—Colored; for general housework; no cooking; g. home nights. 620 5th.

GIRL for general housework; references required; good pay. 1283 Mass. ave. S. E.

GIRL for general housework; must stay nights; with references; ring basement bell. 922 14th.

GIRL for general housework; stay nights and take care of children. 1234 14th. Apply at once.

GIRL—Colored; for general housework. Apply 21 E. Cap.

GIRL for general housework; small family; must be well recommended. Apply 223 S. St. N. W.

GIRL to help on men's coats. 214 7th S. W.

GOOD hands on waists and skirts at once. 1129 17th St.

IRONER—Experienced; collars and cuffs. Address PHAZED-POTOMAC LAUNDRY, 1213 and D. Sts. N. W.

IRONER—Good; to learn pressing ladies' and gentlemen's clothing; white preferred. N. E. BESSON, 1809 Pa. ave. N. W.

LAUNDRESS—First-class; at home or day's work out. 37 O.

LADY baseball players to travel. Call between 1 and 4 p. m. apt. 4, 225 N. J. ave. N. W. City.

LADIES to know 1 make extra-lined suits 120 up. RING, 1640 K. St. Phone 4485-Y.

MANGLE HANDS. ELITE LAUNDRY CO., 217 14th.

OPERATORS on the Singer machine. BAR-TON'S, 911 E. N. W.

SALES LADIES—Experienced; for department store. 12 E. St.

SALSLADY—Experienced; for cloak and suit department. Apply W. H. McKENNEY CO., 322 Pa. ave.

SKIRT HAND—Experienced; at once. 1630 14th St. N. W.

SKIRT PRESSER—Experienced. Apply to Manager, WOODWARD & LOTHROP.

SOLICITOR—Middle-aged lady of neat appearance to solicit for real estate. Noting to sell; salary and commission. DANTZIC & KETCHUM, Opticians, 522 12th St. N. W.

STOREROOM MAIDS; waitresses, today. BURGESS HOTEL AGENCY, 322 10th St.

TAILOR—For fine custom coats. 529 7th N. W., Federal Bldg., Room 33.

WAITRESSES—Experienced. 1304 G. RANDOLPH, 17th Corcoran St.

WAITRESSES—Experienced. TOLEDO CAFE, 635 Pa. ave.

WAITRESS—Experienced; none others need apply at once. 611 12th St. N. W.

WOMAN to do general housework; also wash and iron. Cor. 8th and E. N. W.

WOMAN for general housework; references. 905 Pa. ave. N. W.

WOMAN for general housework; go home nights. 1225 Irving St. N. W.

WOMAN—Settled; for general housework for family of two; references. Apply at 51 1/2 St. N. W., Flat 2.

WOMAN with reference to cook and wash and iron for family of three. Call at 247 1/2 St. N. W.

WOMAN—White; for pantry; colored woman for pantry; white chambermaids; colored women; colored cooks and waitresses. FISHER'S AGENCY, 419 10th.

WOMAN—Reliable; for small family; for general housework; references required; go home nights. 1225 Irving St. N. W.

WOMAN—Colored; to cook, wash, and iron. 1109 M. St. N. W.

WOMAN—Good; for general housework; cook, wash, iron; small family. 737 13th St. N. W.

WOMAN to cook, wash, and iron for family of 4. 514 3d St. N. W.

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